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School Nutrition Update - April 1, 2019

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April 1, 2019 (revision)

School Nutrition



DISTRICT SCHOOL OPERATIONS

REVISION

4-1-2019 - The vacancy announcement for Child Nutrition Director position at Clinton City Schools has been retracted. We apologize for any inconvenience.

In This Issue...

- Important Dates
- Annual Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Data Collection and Notification
- Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium starting with School Year 2019-2020
- Flexibilities in the School Breakfast Program Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit
- A Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools
- Professional Standards: What records must be documented and tallied annually?
- US Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program Memoranda Waivers
- 2019 Summer Nutrition Program News for SFA Sponsors
- Job Vacancies
- Continuing Education

Important Dates

**NOTE: Anytime a deadline falls on a weekend or a holiday the actual deadline is extended to the next business day.*

Apr 1..... Self-Assessment Due for Charter and NonPublic Schools
Apr 8..... Deadline to submit CEP Data
Apr 10..... Deadline to submit NSLP/SBP/ASSP Claim for Reimbursement (for March)
Apr 15..... Deadline to submit FFVP Claim for Reimbursement (for March)
Apr 19..... Good Friday (State offices closed)

May 3 School Lunch Hero Day
May 10 Deadline to submit NSLP/SBP/ASSP Claim for Reimbursement (for April)
May 15 Deadline to submit FFVP Claim for Reimbursement (for April)
May 15 3rd Quarterly Financial Analysis (FC1-A) Worksheet Due (*Traditional Public School SFAs only*)
May 17 SNA-NC Committee Day (Greensboro @ Koury)
May 27 Memorial Day (State offices closed)

Jun 10 Deadline to submit NSLP/SBP/ASSP Claim for Reimbursement (for May)
Jun 15 Deadline to submit FFVP Claim for Reimbursement (for May)
Jun 19-20..... [SNA-NC Annual Conference](#) (Greensboro @ Koury)

Annual Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Data Collection and Notification

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) requires all School Food Authorities (SFAs) to identify students who are directly certified or categorically eligible for free meal benefits annually. Each SFA is required to provide an annual data file containing the numbers of Identified Students to be collected by each SFA, regardless of whether the SFA intends to participate in the CEP or is currently participating in the CEP. The data file must be submitted to the NCDPI and must reflect the total number of Identified Students by school as of April 1 each year. As a reminder, an Identified student is defined as a student who is certified for free meal benefits through (1) direct certification using food stamp (FNS) data, TANF, and FDPIR and (2) categorical eligibility. For purposes associated with the CEP, categorically eligible students include those who are:

- extended eligibility through a sibling who is directly certified;
- documented to be homeless, runaway, or migratory;
- documented as a State-placed Foster Child;
- enrolled in a Head Start or Even Start program; or
- certified for meal benefits as a result of a principal-approved application based on neglect or similar situation (which is rare).

How to submit data...

To determine and certify whether schools and/or LEAs are eligible to participate in the CEP for the 2019-2020 School year, the state agency is required to collect student data from each SFA. To comply with this Federal requirement, each SFA must submit data which indicates the total number of identified students and enrollment by school in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS). The data should be entered in the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) option under the Application tab**.

Applications			
Community Eligibility Provision		Enrollment and Eligibility for Community Eligibility Provision	
Action	School Year	Reporting Date	Open Date
Add	2018 - 2019	April 1, 2019	March 26, 2018

DEADLINE:

The data must be submitted to the State Agency no later than April 8, 2019.

Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium starting with School Year 2019-2020

In December of 2018, USDA issued a Final Rule providing long-term menu planning flexibility for School Nutrition Program operators, effective with the 2019-2020 School Year. Prior to this Final Rule, an interim final rule was released in May of 2017 for the 2017-18 SY with follow-up notice in November of 2017 to extend the flexibilities through school year 2018-19. The intended benefits are to reduce regulatory burden, increase student participation, and to reduce food waste. Please consider these permanently allowable flexibilities in menu planning as you plan local school menus and procure products for the upcoming 2019-20 school year.

Milk Flexibility: In this final rule, USDA will allow National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) operators the **option to offer flavored, low-fat milk and require that unflavored milk be offered at each meal service**. Schools must offer students a variety (at least two different options) of fluid milk. All milk must be fat-free (skim) or low-fat (1 percent fat or less). Milk with higher fat content is not allowed. Low-fat or fat-free, lactose-free and reduced-lactose fluid milk may also be offered. Milk may be unflavored or flavored provided that unflavored milk is offered at each meal service. The flavored milk flexibility will be extended to beverages for sale during the school day and will also apply in the Special Milk Program and CACFP for participants ages 6 years and older.

The requirement to ensure that unflavored milk is available on the school menu will not apply in the NSLP afterschool snack service (ASSP), the SMP, or the CACFP consistent with existing Program requirements. These meal services do not have a requirement to offer a variety of fluid milk as they are smaller in size and resources than the lunch and breakfast services.

In summary, for school breakfast and lunch: At least two different options of fluid milk must be offered, which are either fat-free or 1 percent fat or less, may be flavored or unflavored; however, unflavored milk must always be offered. In other words, variety must not be limited to flavored choices in the NSLP and the SBP.

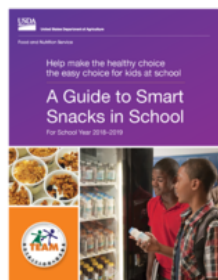
Whole-Grains Flexibility: At least half of the weekly grains offered in the NSLP and SBP must be whole grain-rich. Other grains in the weekly menu must be enriched. There is no change to the whole grain-rich criteria specified in FNS memo [SP 30-2012](#) (Elements 1 and 2) Whole grain-rich products must contain at least 50 percent whole grains and the remaining grains in the product must be enriched. Whole grain-rich exemption requests (waivers) are not required beginning SY 2019-2020.

Sodium Flexibility: The final rule will provide schools in the NSLP and SBP more time for gradual sodium reduction by retaining Sodium Target 1 through the end of school year (SY) 2023-2024, continuing to Target 2 in SY 2024-2025, and eliminating the Final Target that would have gone into effect in SY 2022-2023.

Here is a link to the Federal Register and the Final Rule on Flexibilities in Milk, Whole-Grains, and Sodium:
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-12-12/pdf/2018-26762.pdf>

Flexibilities in the School Breakfast Program Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit

On March 18, 2019, USDA released Policy Memo [SP 16-2019 - School Breakfast Program: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit](#). Effective immediately, school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the School Breakfast Program may credit any vegetable offered, including potatoes and other starchy vegetables, in place of fruit without including vegetables from other subgroups in the weekly menus. This flexibility is based on Section 768 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116-6) (the Appropriations Act), enacted on February 15, 2019, and effective through September 30, 2019. This provision provides additional flexibility in planning breakfast menus but does not require SFAs to make any menu changes.



A Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools

The document, [A Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools](#), is a publication updated for the School Year 2018–2019. If your schools manage a la carte items, fundraisers, snack bars, or vending machines this is a helpful resource. There are not any changes or additions to Smart Snack Standards. This resource outlines the Smart Snack Standards Final Rule and offers guidance to manage Smart Snack Standards in your schools.

Professional Standards: What records must be documented and tallied annually?

Supporting documentation for all completed trainings must be maintained on file to demonstrate compliance with the annual training standards:

- Agendas
- Sign-in sheets
- Certificates of completion, etc.,



The USDA Tracking Tool may be used, or alternative training tracking tools may be developed by the SFAs, but must include, at a minimum, the required fields listed in the USDA Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool.

Trainee Name	Job Title	Hiring Date
Training Title	Key Area	Key/Training Topics
Learning Objectives	Training Hour/Minutes	School Year

Reports from the USDA downloadable training tracking tool (or similar alternative training tracking tool) also are acceptable documentation to demonstrate compliance.

**To demonstrate compliance with the hiring standards, program directors hired on or after July 1, 2015, must provide documentation showing completion of required education.

**The SFA must retain appropriate records for a 3-year period. If a State agency requires specific records, the SFA should be made aware of this separate State agency requirement. See the professional standards review module in the Administrative Review Manual for more guidance.



****Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool 2.0****

<https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>

Reference: <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP38-2016os.pdf>

US Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program Memoranda Waivers

On December 21, 2018, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) requested that the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) waive two regulatory requirements:

- Requirement for closed enrolled sites to use income eligibility applications to determine site eligibility in the SFSP (7 CFR 225.15(f); and
- First week site visit requirements for sponsors in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) [7 CFR 225.15(d)(2)].

On February 28, 2019 and March 12, 2019, the USDA granted waivers to NCDPI for the closed enrolled site and first week site visit requirements, respectively. These waivers are effective immediately and extend through April 30, 2020.

For closed enrolled sites, this means that for the 2019 Program Year, the USDA will allow sponsors in the SFSP and the Seamless Summer Option to continue to use area eligibility data (school and census) to qualify closed enrolled sites in needy areas, as outlined in the [USDA Policy Memorandum SFSP 03-2017, Area Eligibility in Child Nutrition Programs](#). **According to the regulations, closed enrolled sites must maintain master rosters that list the children enrolled whether using area eligibility or individually determining eligibility.**

Regarding the first week visits, FNS approved NCDPI's request to waive the first week site visit requirement for:

- Sites in good standing that have operated SFSP or SSO successfully in the previous year.
- Sponsors that successfully participate in the CACFP or the NSLP and are in good standing. This means these sponsors are not required to conduct first week visits for sites successfully operating the CACFP and NSLP.

This is very good news for our summer sponsors! With this added flexibility, we encourage you continue to expand the number of sites for the 2019 Summer. If you would like additional information on the waivers, please contact your Summer Nutrition Consultant.



2019 Summer Nutrition Program News for SFA Sponsors

Summer is just around the corner! The Summer Nutrition Team is hard at work preparing for RACE Live trainings and ready to approve your applications.

In 2019, The Required Annual Continuing Education (RACE) Online training must be completed by at least two representatives from each SFA sponsor before your application can be approved for summer

2019.

To start your RACE Online, register for the appropriate course using the following links:

- RACE Online for SFSP Sponsors: <https://goo.gl/2uiwgc>
- RACE Online for SSO Sponsors: <https://goo.gl/forms/zrCruir6m94bi6972>

RACE Live is optional but strongly encouraged for SFSP sponsors. Upon completion of RACE Online, you will receive instructions on how to register for RACE Live:

- April 9 - RACE Live in Raleigh – registration closes April 3
- April 16 - RACE Live in Hickory – registration closes April 9

Please contact your Summer Nutrition Consultant with any questions about upcoming trainings or deadlines.

Job Vacancies

Chatham County Schools has an opening for **Director for School Nutrition Services**. Find more details and application information at: <https://www.chatham.k12.nc.us/domain/586?category=Administration>.

Continuing Education

School Nutrition Leadership Academy Opportunities

The NC School Nutrition Leadership Academy offers a variety of professional development activities for School Nutrition Administrators. Be sure to keep the School Nutrition Administrator contact information updated in the School Nutrition Technology System as this is the information used to send email notifications.

Course listings and available registration links may be found on the School Nutrition website at:

<https://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/continuing-education/sn-leadership-acad>

and the McKimmon Center website at:

<https://learn.mckimmoncenter.ncsu.edu/search/publicCourseAdvancedSearch.do?method=doPaginatedSearch&showInternal=false&csplIndex=true&isPageDisplayed=true&courseSearch.programAreaStringArray=54369&courseSearch.filterString=availforreg>

Date	Course/Workshop Title	SN Academy Classification	Location
April 3 (register by March 26)	Meeting Nutritional Needs of Students through School Nutrition Programs	Nutrition Level 2	Colfax
April 22-24 (Register by April 12)	Safe Plates	Food Safety Level 1	Kinston
May 6-8 (register by April 26)	Safe Plates	Food Safety Level 1	Asheville
June 12-14 (Register by June 4)	Safe Plates	Food Safety Level 1	Goldsboro
June 12-14 (Register by June 4)	Safe Plates	Food Safety Level 1	Jacksonville

June 17-18 (Register by June 7)	Program Accountability Level 4: The Administrative Review	Accountability	Greensboro
June 17-18 (Register by June 7)	New Manager Leadership Workshop	Orientation	Colfax
June 17-19 (Register by June 7)	Safe Plates	Food Safety Level 1	Greensboro
June 24-26 (Register by June 14)	Safe Plates	Food Safety Level 1	Clarkton
Summer 2019 (Apply by April 1)	Applications for NC K-12 Culinary Institute for School Nutrition Managers	Food Production and Operations Management	June 25–27 Craven Co July 9 –11 Rowan Co July 9 –11 Pasquotank Co July 23 – 25 Asheville July 23 – 25 Nash Co July 30 – Aug 1 New Hanover July 30 – Aug 1 Wilkes Co August 6 – 8 Harnett Co August 6 – 8 Alamance Co
July 30 – August 1 (Register by July 22)	Orientation for NEW School Nutrition Administrators and Supervisors	Orientation	Colfax
August 12-14 (Register by August 2)	Safe Plates	Food Safety Level 1	Wilmington



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Website: <http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/>

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